

ILIA ORTIZ BAEZA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ilia Ortiz Baeza for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ilia Ortiz Baeza is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ilia Ortiz Baeza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ilia Ortiz Baeza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL  
RAYMOND CHARLES SMITH, JR.

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. in celebration of his outstanding career in the U.S. Navy.

Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. was born and raised in Vallejo, California, graduating from St. Vincent's High School in 1961. Admiral Smith began his career in the Navy in 1962. Shortly after enlisting, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy, which he graduated from in 1967. Later, in 1974, he earned a master's degree in Physical Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Admiral Smith served as First Lieutenant on USS *Floyd B. Parks* for two years before participating in Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training. After graduating from his SEAL Training in 1970, Admiral Smith served in a variety of positions on Underwater Demolition Team Thirteen, including as Ordinance Officer, Operations Officer, and Platoon Commander.

In August 1990, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, where he led Naval Special Warfare Task Group Central during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Then in June 1992, he assumed command of Naval Special Warfare Command at Coronado, California, where he was responsible for over 2,300 SEALs and support personnel. From 1996 to 1998, Admiral Smith moved to Tampa, Florida, and served as both Director of Resources and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Special Operations Command. He retired from active duty in 2001 after 34 years of service.

During his retirement, Admiral Smith devoted himself to his three passions: family, fitness, and community service. Admiral Smith

was described as a great husband, father, and friend. He was married to his wife, Kathleen, for 54 years, with whom he had three sons: Raymond III, Nate, and Adam. Admiral Smith passed away peacefully at his home in Coronado, California, on February 6, 2022.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Rear Admiral Raymond Charles Smith, Jr. dedicated his life to military service and our country. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

WYATT WILSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wyatt Wilson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Wyatt Wilson is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Wyatt Wilson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Wyatt Wilson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHEN YUN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Shen Yun, and welcome it back to Lincoln Center for its 17th anniversary. Shen Yun is a classical Chinese dance and music company with the mission of preserving traditional Chinese culture. The name Shen Yun means "the beauty of divine beings dancing." Shen Yun preserves, memorializes, and revitalizes ancient Chinese stories and traditions, introducing this rich culture and art form to New Yorkers and many other people around the world.

In 2006, a group of Chinese artists, persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party for practicing Falun Dafa, founded Shen Yun to preserve their traditions and ancient history, which has been under threat since the Cultural Revolution. These artists chose to gather in New York, a testament to this city's status as a haven for the arts, culture, and freedom. Shen Yun creates a new performance each year dedicated to these principles.

Shen Yun's performances draw from historical Chinese stories and legends such as Mulan and Journey to the West. Its dances are accompanied by traditional Chinese instruments such as the pipa, suona, and dizi.

Three of Shen Yun's performers were recipients of the Chinese Ministry of Culture's "National First-Class Performer Awards".

Shen Yun currently has seven troupes that travel and perform all around the world. The troupes perform in over 130 cities in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. In their first three years of touring, over 1 million people attended Shen Yun performances.

I congratulate them for their unwavering devotion not only to putting on a fantastic show, but to preserving cultural treasures for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shen Yun for celebrating thousands of years of Chinese culture and history through traditional dance, orchestration, costumes, and more.

RECOGNIZING MADDIE ROONEY OF  
ANDOVER, MINNESOTA

**HON. TOM EMMER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maddie Rooney of Andover, Minnesota, for her participation in the 2022 Winter Olympics. Maddie joined Team USA and played as goalkeeper on the women's ice hockey team.

Maddie comes to the Olympic team from the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs women's ice hockey program. In 2018, she was awarded the Bob Allen Women's Player of the Year Award from USA Hockey.

Her training and hard work paid off: She helped bring home a silver medal for the United States. I congratulate Maddie on this great result at the 2022 Winter Games.

JANCY MENDOZA MANCIA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jancy Mendoza Mancia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jancy Mendoza Mancia is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jancy Mendoza Mancia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jancy Mendoza Mancia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.